

Cell Stem Cell, One Year On

We launched *Cell Stem Cell* a year ago this month. In some ways, it's difficult to believe that a whole year has passed since our inaugural issue, but in others, particularly if considering the exciting advances in the stem cell field, it's equally hard to believe it has only been a year. To celebrate our anniversary, we have put together a special online feature providing free access to a selection of some of our most popular articles. This feature is divided into three sections: one for research articles, one for our range of other formats, and one that is a collection of articles on iPS cells. We based our selections largely on download frequency and also on feedback from the research community. The chosen articles cover diverse topics such as cancer stem cells, miRNAs, and even stem cell patents. We hope you will enjoy this feature and that it will also illustrate the range and the quality of the articles we have been fortunate enough to publish in our first 12 issues.

An anniversary is an opportune time to reflect on events that have occurred in the preceding year. In the stem cell field, there have been many interesting developments, and some of the most prominent have been in the area of iPS cells. It is important to remember, however, that iPS cells are only one facet of stem cell research and, at present, still a relatively small one. Indeed, as leaders in the field have pointed out, iPS cell technology does not reduce the need for embryonic stem cell research (Hyun et al., 2007), let alone research in other areas of stem cell biology. There have been a number of other notable developments in the past year in several areas of stem cell research—too many to cover adequately in a brief Editorial. Practical, ethical, and political considerations also abound, and the regulatory climate is still changing rapidly around the world. Contributing to this progress over the past year has been a pleasure, and I look forward to the opportunities we will have to address important questions in future issues of *Cell Stem Cell*.

With regard to *Cell Stem Cell* more specifically, we were delighted to receive the 2007 award for the “Best New Journal in Science, Technology and Medicine” from the Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers. From the outset, our intention has been that, in addition to publishing high-quality original papers, *Cell Stem Cell* will provide a forum for discussion of issues related to stem cell research. In pursuit of this goal, we have introduced new review material formats over the past year, including the “Protocol Review,” which analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of specific methodologies used in stem cell research. At the start of our second year, we are introducing two more: “Letter,” which will be used for succinct coverage of information pertinent to stem cell research, and “Forum,” which will provide a venue for expression of opinions and ideas relevant to the field. These formats will complement their longer, data-driven cousins, “Correspondence” and “Commentary,” respectively. The first example of the new “Forum” format appears in this issue (Sugarman, 2008); Jeremy Sugarman offers his perspective on ethical issues facing stem cell research in the wake of the iPS cell advances.

Producing *Cell Stem Cell* over this past year would not have been possible without input from many different people, all of whom deserve our thanks. We very much appreciate the ISSCR's ongoing support of the journal, and we are happy to have been able to provide a venue for a number of society communications in the ISSCR section. The journal would not exist without the authors who entrusted their work to us and the reviewers who provided invaluable advice that helped us maintain high standards. Our Editorial Board members played a key role in this process, as did a number of other experts in the field. This month, we are delighted to welcome 12 new members to our advisory Editorial Board. Behind the scenes at Cell Press, many different people have worked on the print and electronic production of *Cell Stem Cell*. Also, for this issue in particular, I am very grateful to BD Biosciences for sponsorship support that has enabled us to provide a free copy of the journal for all delegates at the 2008 ISSCR meeting in Philadelphia. Together with the other members of the *Cell Stem Cell* editorial team—Heather Fleming and Christina Lilliehook—I look forward seeing a number of you there and to hearing from even more of you in the coming year.

REFERENCES

- Hyun, I., Hochedlinger, K., Jaenisch, R., and Yamanaka, S. (2007). *Cell Stem Cell* 1, 367–368.
Sugarman, J. (2008). *Cell Stem Cell* 2, this issue, 529–533.

Deborah J. Sweet, PhD
Editor, *Cell Stem Cell*
DOI 10.1016/j.stem.2008.05.015